

## President's Report to the Governing Board May 20, 2008

### COLLEGE NOTEWORTHY NEWS

- **PASSPORT to a SPECTACULAR SUCCESS!!!!**



To simply say that the Cuyamaca College Foundation held its annual fundraiser on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> would be a great understatement. For the first time, the college itself played host to the annual event. The progressive event began at the Communication Arts Center where the new



Cuyamaca College Chorus, under the direction instructor Ruth Lopez-Yanez, serenaded the guests as they enjoyed delicious food, exciting auction items and a beautiful evening. As the guests moved to the Plaza, they were drawn to the area by the enchanting music of the 4 Winds, indigenous music of the Kumeyaay Indians, led by Cuyamaca College automotive instructor, Jim Hannibal. More exquisite food and even more exciting auction items greeted guests at Destination 2, the Plaza, where guests enjoyed a jazz ensemble, under the direction of Angelo Petruolo and instructor Pat Setzer, and bid on silent and live auction items. A dessert buffet that guests said looked like something from a cruise ship, and dancing in the Student Center, rounded out the evening. When asked what they thought about the evening, an elderly couple said that they "attend fundraising events all over the county, in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and this by far is the best event they've ever been to!" The event was not only thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended, the Foundation once again broke its record for the amount of money raised during the evening!



- **Ornamental Horticulture Published**

Laurie LeBlanc, along with Robert Mazalewski, of the OH Department, and former students Jon Cook and Jasmine King, had a “case study” published which was created for the National Science Foundation-sponsored National Center for Case Study Teaching in Science Case Collection website. It is an Integrated Chemistry/Plant Science Environmental case study that has been through the peer-review process. You can find read the case study at <http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/projects/cases/ubcase.htm> under "Our Latest Cases".

- **Faculty Member Published and Interviewed by NPR’s Latino USA**

Patricia Santana, Spanish instructor at Cuyamaca College, has just published her second novel - GHOSTS OF EL GRULLO, to critical acclaim. On May 2, 2008, she was interviewed by National Public Radio's LATINO USA to talk about her novel. The program aired throughout the United States.

- **Second Concert in a Series of 3 Pianos**

Dr. Scott Walton, music instructor, performed a unique piano concert in the second of a three-part concert series co-sponsored by the Cuyamaca College Foundation and the college Music Department. Profits from the concert series will be used to create a scholarship fund for the music department.



- **College Career Fair a Success**

Cuyamaca College’s 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Career Fair was held on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Fifty-four (54) employer and community organizations were excited to visit with more than 350 students and community members to discuss career options and opportunities. Ten sponsors (two more than last year) donated \$3,600 in support of the Career Fair.



- **Spring Garden Festival Breaks Records – Again!!**

Growing bigger every year! Ornamental Horticulture’s Annual Spring Garden Festival had a record number of exhibitors, a record number of sales in their nursery and a record number of people (over 6,100!) who attended this year’s event. Professional Organizations such as the American Society of Landscape Architects, California Landscape Contractors Association, and various Garden Clubs from throughout the region participated in the event, as did the Water Conservation Garden and the Heritage of the Americas Museum. Presentations on various gardening topics were also held in the Student Center. And winning the “Best Display” award for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row was Plant Propagation (OH121), taught by Mr. Fausto Palafox. More than 150 faculty, staff, students and volunteers helped to make the day a success.



- **OH Scholarship Banquet**

The Cuyamaca College Botanical Society celebrated its 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship and Awards Banquet on Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at the Hilton on Mission Bay. The fun and popular event was attended by 130 students, staff, faculty, administrators and donors, and distributed more than \$25,000 in scholarships to 30 students in the Ornamental Horticulture program.

- **Industry Driven Regional Collaborative Holds its Big Splash**

The Industry Driven Regional Collaborative grant-funded project produced a big splash with its program as it introduced the Water Works grant. Invited were key members of Water Districts and Agencies, Workforce and Job developers, and educators (including representatives from other Community College Water Training programs). The sixty-eight attendees represented a cross-section of Region 10, including Imperial Valley College and Santiago Canyon College in Orange County. The Water Industry anticipates losing 35-50% of their employees due to retirement alone within the next ten years. There is a great need for qualified, capable, dependable people with intern or industry experience to ensure ongoing operations in water distribution. Our grant partner, Palomar College, will work with us in training potential water employees and getting potential employees into the Intern program through the San Diego County Water Authority.



- **EOPS Achievement Ceremony 2008**

The Spring 2008 EOPS/CARE Student Recognition Celebration was held May 2<sup>nd</sup> on the OH Lawn. The event was held to formally honor EOPS students (those who have high financial need or those who are educationally disadvantaged - such as first generation and ESL students) and CARE students (those who are single parents) who have worked so hard to complete their educational programs. This year, approximately 48 EOPS/CARE students will be graduating or transferring to a 4-year institution. Students in attendance received certificates of recognition from the EOPS Counseling Staff. (Note: EOPS refers to Extended Opportunities Programs and Services, and CARE is Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education).



- **Cuyamaca Presents A Night of Performing Arts**

On Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, Cuyamaca College hosted an event called, "Cuyamaca Presents: A Night of Performing Arts." The evening highlighted programs on campus with a wide variety of performances, including hip hop dance, belly dance, theatrical and speech team performances and a presentation by the Cuyamaca College American Sign Language Choir. The event was put together by Robert Chambers, a forensics team student and instructor in the community learning program and Nancy Jennings, a Communication instructor, and helped raise funds for the Grossmont-Cuyamaca District Forensics Team. Performers were students, faculty and members of the community. There were nearly 250 audience members in attendance. By the

end of the last high energy dance number, the audience members were standing up and cheering!

- **Associated Student Government of Cuyamaca College (ASGCC) Elects New Officers**  
The Associated Student Government of Cuyamaca College held it's elections for its 2008-2009 Executive Board on April 21-23<sup>rd</sup>. Congratulations to the following new elected officers of the ASGCC:

Bobby Carino, President

Angel Yousif, Executive Vice President

Monique Benitez, Evening Vice President

Charles Taylor III, Treasurer

And, congratulations to the new Cuyamaca College Student Trustee, Charles Taylor III.

- **Auto Skills Day a Huge Success**

Nearly 100 students from high schools throughout the region competed in the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Auto Skills Day. The event was hosted by the Automotive Technology Department at Cuyamaca College, and co-sponsored by the San Diego Chapter 24 of the Automotive Service Council. Coordinated by Mr. Jim Custeau, Coordinator of the Automotive Technology Department, students were challenged in both hands-on and written exams in a variety of automotive skill areas, such as electrical diagnosis, brakes, alignment and much, much more. Students were also given the opportunity to compete against each other as pit crew teams, being timed to see which team could dress and secure a driver and change the tires on an actual race car. The exciting event was supported by donations from a variety of corporate sponsors who supplied both money and products to help host the event and serve as prizes for students.

- **Fourth Annual Transfer Achievement Celebration**

The very elegant Fourth Annual Transfer Achievement Celebration was held on Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, in the Communication Arts Center theatre, and was a tremendous success. Over 50 Transfer Students were recognized for their achievements, and smiles and pride swelled among the more than 100 parents, relatives and guests who cheered, celebrated and took photos with the Cuyamaca Coyote. Thanks to Amaliya Blyumin, Alan Ridley and MANY others for a job well done!

- **Holocaust Survivor Speaks at College**

David Faber, author of *Because of Romek: a Holocaust Survivor's Memoir*, recently spoke to a packed house in the Comm Arts theatre about his novel and personal experience surviving nine concentration camps, including Auschwitz, during WWII. This free event provided a great opportunity for students, staff, faculty, and community members to hear and understand a significant historical event through the eyes of someone who lived through this harrowing experience. Mr. Faber also autographed his book at the event. Congratulations to Marvelyn Bucky for coordinating this event!



English instructor Marvelyn Bucky and author David

- **Speech Team Finishes the Season with a Bang!**

The Pacific Southwest Collegiate Forensics Association held its annual Cool-Off Tournament at Palomar College. The following Cuyamaca College students brought home awards:

1st Place in Novice Prose: Maricella Tucker

3rd Place in Novice Prose: Jessica Green

3rd Place in Novice Program Oral Interpretation: Jessica Green

Finalist in Novice Prose: Maricella Tucker

Finalist in Novice Prose: Jessie Wallace

We congratulate our forensic team, and are grateful to Ms. Nancy Jennings for her dedication to this team.

- **Children's Art Silent Auction**

The Parent Advisory Committee is sponsoring the Child Development Center's spring fundraiser – Children's Art Silent Auction, featuring canvas artwork created by the children of the Center. The funds raised will be used for enrichment activities and to purchase classroom materials. The art pieces will be on display at the Cuyamaca College Child Development Center from May 12 to May 23<sup>rd</sup> (from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday-Friday).

## **COLLEGE UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **Library Display**

The library is featuring its newest display, "Books For and About Children." The books on display support the Child Development Program. Besides the Classics and Caldecott, there are books about children around the world as well as other themes that children enjoy.

- **Piano Concert Series Continues**

The Art of the Piano: 3 Generations ~ 3 Artists ~ 3 Concerts, will celebrate its final concert on Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, beginning at 8:00 p.m. The featured performer for the evening will be John Coates, Jr., legendary jazz pianist. The Art of the Piano concert series is being co-sponsored by the Cuyamaca College Foundation and the Music Department to build the Foundation's Music Scholarship Fund.

- **Speech Night**

Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 p.m. in the Digital Theater.